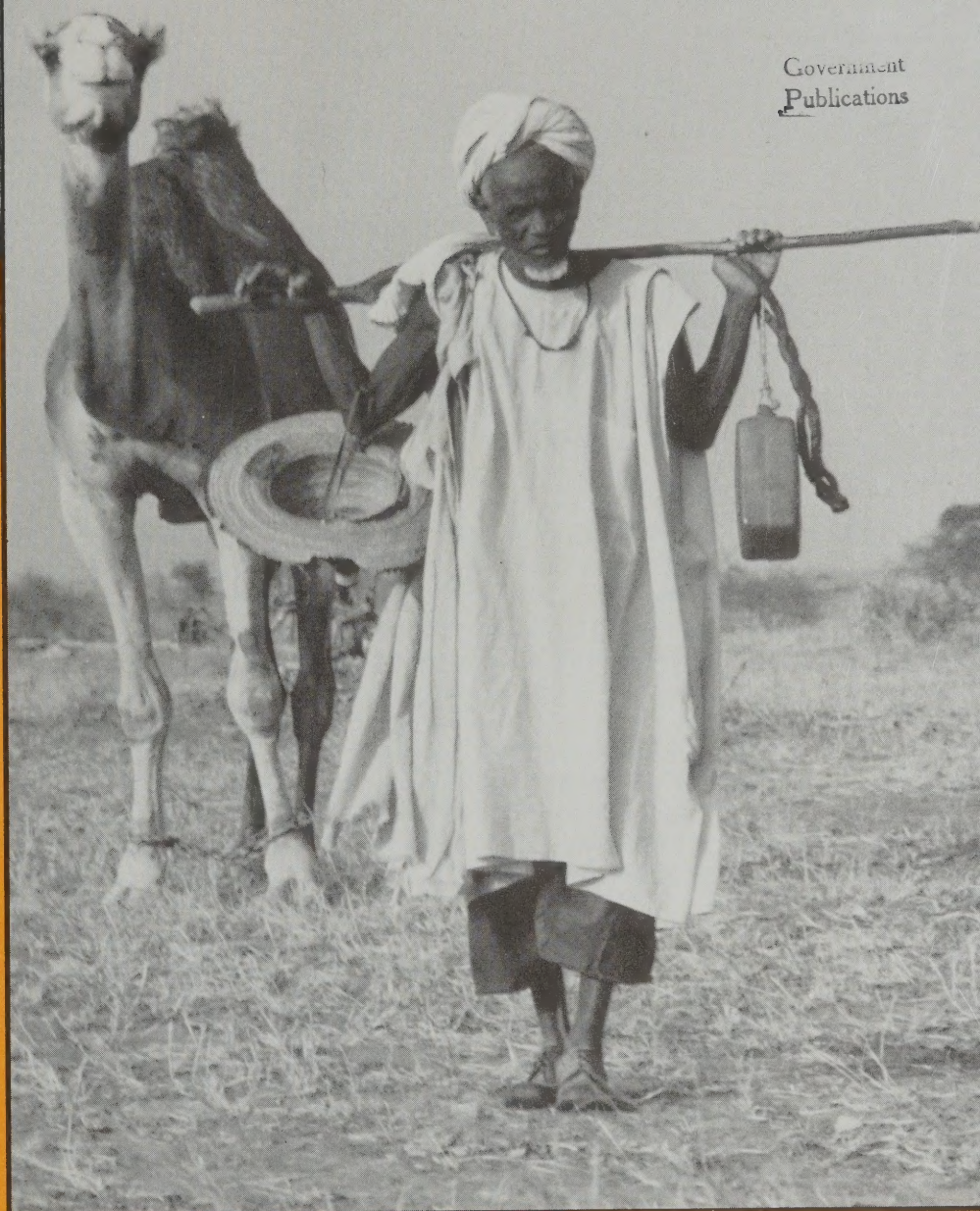
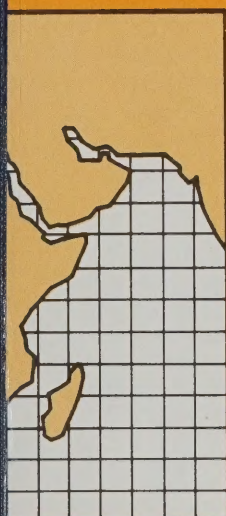


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# Country Profile

# **Niger**

Canada





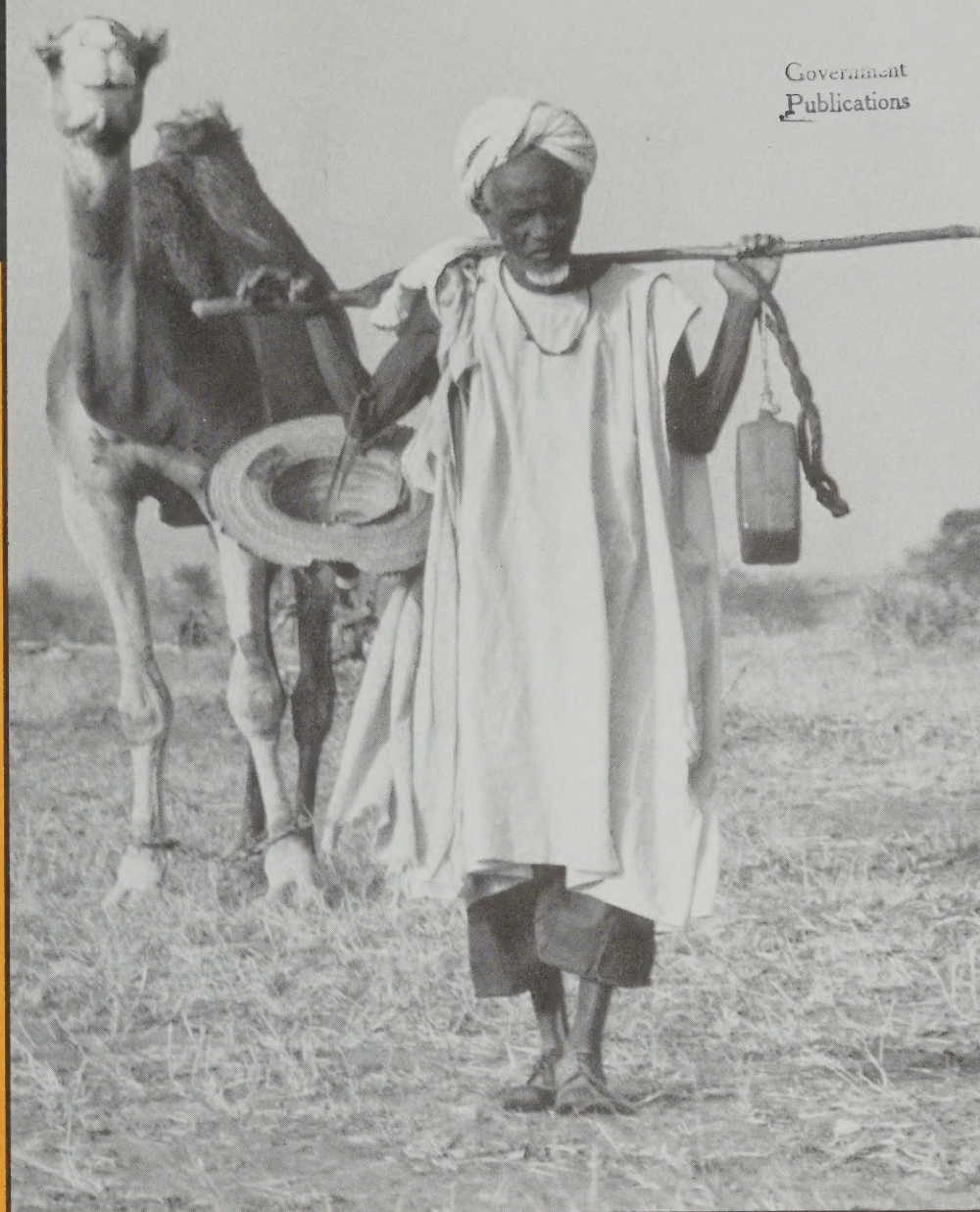


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# Country Profile

# **Niger**

Canada





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NIGER

Introduction

With an area of 1,266,000 km<sup>2</sup> - twice that of France and almost equal to that of Quebec - Niger is the largest country in West Africa and the sixth largest on the continent. Landlocked Niger borders seven countries (Chad to the east, Algeria and Libya to the North, Mali to the west, Burkina Faso to the southwest, and Benin and Nigeria to the south) and forms a bridge between West, Central and North Africa. The capital, Niamey, is 2,500 km from Algiers, 1,587 km from Abidjan and 1,058 km from Cotonou.

Niger is one of the countries which form the Sahel, which in Arabic means "edge of the desert" or "seashore" and refers to the southern fringe of the Sahara. The Sahel is a vast steppe on which the soil is generally very poor, and which produces little more than shrubs. Four-fifths of Niger's territory is an arid desert. The rest is a savanna region suitable for agriculture and limited cattle-raising.

Like its neighbour Mali, Niger was dealt a hard blow by the terrible drought of the early 70s. Food production fell by 60 per cent, and almost half the livestock was wiped out. The rains returned to Niger and the rest of the Sahel in 1975 and 1976. Since 1977, however, annual rainfall has decreased steadily. Drought now prevails in these countries, causing a worse famine, on the whole, than that of the previous decade.

The soil is so depleted that grain production in the eight Sahel countries has dropped more than 1.5 million tonnes since 1981. During each of the last three years, Niger itself has had an average overall food shortage of some 100,000 tonnes. The food self-sufficiency achieved in 1980 today seems out of reach, despite the government's efforts. This year, estimates peg the shortfall at more than 250,000 tonnes, and the number of people seriously threatened by the drought at 500,000.

Relief and Climate

Most of Niger's territory is divided between the Sahara desert and the Sahel, a sub-Saharan savanna region. Only the southwest enjoys a climate more suited to agriculture. The north contains the high plateaus and sandy plains of the Sahara. In the centre, the Sahel yields various grasses that sustain grazing, but the soil is poor, and growth sparse. The most fertile part of the country is the Sudan region in the south and southwest, through which flows the Niger River. This region is a strip 1,500 km long and only 50 to 250 km wide, representing barely 12 per cent of Niger's territory but containing the highest population density in the country.

In general, the average temperature is very high. In fact, Niger is one of the hottest countries in the world. The climate ranges from Saharan in the north to dry tropical in the south. The rainy season, June to October in the south, becomes shorter toward the north where the intense heat often evaporates the rain even before it hits the ground.



In such a warm, dry country, the hydrography plays an important role. Niger has only one major waterway, the Niger River, which flows across almost 600 km of the southwest region of the country. There is also one secondary waterway, the Komadugu, which flows into Lake Chad when there is enough rain.

### The People

Like neighbouring Mali, Niger has always been a crossroads of civilization, a meeting place for black and white people. Today, the country is made up of five ethnic groups. The largest of these is the Hausa, who live in the south along the border with Nigeria, where they are also by far the largest group. The second largest group is the Djerma, including the Songhai, who live in the southwest region around the Niger River. The Kanuri (Beriberi and Manga) live in the southeast, between Zinder and Lake Chad. The Tuareg, nomads from the northern desert, and the Peul, nomads scattered throughout the country, complete the ethnic mix. The official language of Niger is French, although most people speak one of the two major vernacular languages - Hausa or Djerma. Given this ethnic and linguistic diversity, the strongest element of national unity is Islam, the religion practised by 90 per cent of the population.

With an estimated population of nearly six million in 1983, Niger has an average density of 4.7 inhabitants per square kilometre. This figure is a poor indicator of population distribution in Niger, since human settlement is concentrated in the south. More than 80 per cent of the population lives along the Niger River, where the density ranges from 60 to 70 inhabitants per square kilometre, while in the north, the figure drops to less than one. Niger is one of the least urbanized countries in the world, with more than 80 per cent of its people living in rural areas. The capital, Niamey, alone accounts for 43 per cent of the urban population. On the whole, Niger is not very fortunate. The infant and general mortality rates are higher than the average for all sub-Saharan countries. Life expectancy at birth is 45 years, one of the lowest on the African continent. The daily calorie supply barely meets the minimum standards of nutrition. The literacy rate among the adult population is 12 per cent, and 23 per cent of school-aged children attend school. The enrolment rate in rural areas is even lower (12 per cent), largely because of the nomadic traditions of part of the population. Almost 50 per cent of the population of Niger is below the age of 14. The average rate of population growth is 3.3 per cent, one of the highest on the continent.

### History

Located at the hub of the ancient caravan routes and bridging North, West and Equatorial Africa, Niger was one of the first important centres in that region. A place where the black and white races met and mingled, Niger was the crossroads of the great empires and kingdoms of West Africa. In its present configuration, it has existed for less than three-quarters of a century. However, the territory itself was once part of centuries-old kingdoms, and each of the ethnic groups that today make up Niger has roots in



another part of Africa: the Tuareg in present-day Algeria, the Songhai and Djerma in the ancient kingdom of Gao, the Hausa and Peul in Nigeria, and the Kanembu in Chad. These peoples built empires, kingdoms and sultanates. One would appear, another would disappear. One would grow, another would die out. The kingdom of Songhai, with its capital at Gao, was the most recent of the great states of Niger. Created in the early Middle Ages, this kingdom consisted at first of a few black farming and fishing villages. It thrived despite its powerful neighbours, and by the 16th century had grown until it held virtual supremacy over all of West Africa. The kingdom controlled the salt, gold and slave trades, and dealt on an equal footing with the Berber and Arab princes of the Mahgreb and Egypt. Its main towns, Gao, Timbuktu and Djénné, achieved a level of material and spiritual civilization not seen since in the Land of the Blacks, a level of kingdom maintained for more than a century. In the 17th century, many of the Djerma emigrated from the north and settled along the Niger River. At the same time, the Hausa claimed control over the same region. In the 18th century, rivalry between the tribes tore the kingdom apart. The Peul founded the Fulani empire, based in Sokoto, in the southern part of the country in the 19th century. French colonization, benefiting from the slow disintegration of the great African empires, spread to Niger in 1891. Ten years later, the Middle Niger became an autonomous military region with headquarters at Niamey. In 1922, following several uprisings earlier in the decade, Niger was officially established as a French colony. In 1958, the colony was awarded full internal self-government as a member of the French Community, and independence was proclaimed on August 3, 1960. No real infrastructure (bridges, roads, railways) was built during the colonial period because it was thought the country had no agricultural or mineral products worth exporting to the mother country, and because of its landlocked isolation. Hamani Diori was elected President of the Republic in November 1960 and was re-elected in 1965 and 1970. In the early 70s, Niger suffered severe drought, with catastrophic effects on its economy. In 1973 alone, the gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 14 per cent. In April 1974, the President was deposed by the army. Lieutenant-Colonel (now General) Seyni Kountché seized power and formed a Supreme Military Council. The goals of the new regime are food self-sufficiency and the elimination of corruption. The Council obtained majority support in the 1976 elections, and in 1983, the position of Prime Minister was created.

### Economy

Like most of the Sahel nations, Niger has few advantages. Statistics from the World Bank place it among the twenty poorest countries in the world, and among the forty-five countries recognized as seriously affected by adverse economic conditions. The per capita gross national product is \$310 US, with an average decline in annual growth of 1.5 per cent between 1960 and 1982. The annual rate of inflation over the past decade has been 12.1 per cent. This is not surprising given Niger's hazardous climate and other handicaps. Landlocked, with desert over four-fifths of its territory and its agriculture dependent on seasonal rains, Niger has sought to attain food self-sufficiency since the mid-70s. However, the rains do not come often enough or heavily enough and are poorly distributed, so that a population with a standard of living already very low is regularly threatened with starvation.



On the whole, growth in Niger is cyclical. Following independence, the country experienced moderate economic development. The drought that lasted from 1968 to 1973, however, dealt Niger a hard blow and almost brought development to a standstill. According to the Red Cross, more than half of Niger's population suffered from starvation or chronic malnutrition during that period. Most of the livestock was wiped out. The second half of the 70s was much kinder to the people of Niger. An increase in uranium revenues, improved climatic conditions and a well-defined agricultural policy made economic recovery possible. The GDP growth rate climbed to 7 per cent for this period, reaching a peak of 13.6 per cent in 1979. On the other hand, it tumbled 13 per cent to 1.1 per cent between 1979 and 1981. Since then, Niger's economy has been sluggish. The slump in uranium prices (uranium accounts for 80 per cent of the country's foreign currency earnings) and a significant drop in rainfall have plunged Niger back into difficulty. For the past four years, food shortages have forced Niger to import large quantities of grain. The world economic crisis has only worsened the situation. The balance of payments has deteriorated rapidly, and the cost of servicing the public debt places a heavy burden on the national budget. For 1984-1985, the government has adopted an interim program of which the principal objectives are: food self-sufficiency; redirection of investment toward the agriculture, mining, industrial and energy sectors; and development of a water management program.

#### History of the Canadian program

Canada's program of bilateral aid to Niger began in 1962 with support in the education and health sectors, and has gradually moved toward economic assistance.

Stabilization of the vegetation cover, food security and energy development are the main objectives of Canada's bilateral assistance program to Niger. In 1977, Niger's debt to Canada was cancelled. Since then, Canadian aid has been in the form of grants and includes government-to-government aid, Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGO) and institutional co-operation and multilateral assistance. The NGO and Institutional Co-operation Programs promote increased farm production, agricultural development, education and public health.

Between 1980 and 1983, Niger received nearly \$17 million in government-to-government aid. Since 1962, it has received more than \$120 million, of which \$12 million was in the form of food aid. Canada provided Niger with \$1.5 million in food aid in 1982-1983 to help that country overcome its food shortage. Since 1983, CIDA has directed its activity in this sector toward helping Niger achieve food security on its own, rather than through regular food aid. However, emergency food aid is still provided in cases of great need.



## Key sectors of Niger's economy

### Agriculture

Like its Sahel neighbours, Niger is chiefly an agricultural nation. Farming and traditional animal husbandry account for almost half the GDP and provide a living for more than 80 per cent of the population. Millet, sorghum, cowpeas and rice are the main food crops and represent seven-eighths of farm products. Grain production, however, is among the lowest in the world: 446 kg per person in 1979, compared with the African average of 920 kg per person. In 1983-1984, there were just over 4 million hectares of cultivated land, about 3 per cent of the total area of the country. Farming activity is limited to the southern part of the country and a narrow strip along the Niger River, where annual rainfall ranges from 350 to 800 mm. Elsewhere, available land is much poorer, and rainfall is too low and irregular for farming without irrigation. The average family farm is small and usually worked by traditional methods, with little use of fertilizers, high-yield seeds and other modern inputs. The export crops, peanuts and cotton, were lower after the drought and now make only a small contribution to the economy.

To support Niger in its efforts, CIDA is carrying out four agriculture and rural development projects. In general, the program involves improving and developing farmland, and developing the local resources, both physical and human, that are vital to the success of these projects.

#### Crop Protection - Phases III and IV - \$22.5 million

The aim of this project is to provide technical and material assistance to the crop protection service in order to strengthen the methods of combatting crop-destroying insects and diseases.

#### Support for agricultural development in Diffa (1981-1985) - \$5.3 million

The purpose of this project is to increase agricultural production in this southeastern region by broadening the role played by the technical services divisions of the Ministries of Agriculture and Water and Forests.

#### Dalous (1982-1984) - \$200,000

This project seeks to increase market garden production around Niamey by intensifying and extending irrigated cropping.

#### Village water supply - \$11.8 million

The goal of this project is to improve the water supply in the rural areas of Maradi, Zinder and Diffa by drilling 250 village wells and digging some fifty rural watering holes.



The new thrust of Canada's aid program focuses even more on establishing a socio-ecological balance that will ensure the survival and development of agriculture, which is the only real way to meet the basic needs of the people.

#### Animal husbandry

Livestock-raising, which accounts for some 20 per cent of the GDP and directly employs the same percentage of the population, is practised exclusively by nomads, although there are a considerable number of settled livestock farmers in some areas. Niger's livestock was hard hit by the drought in 1972-1973: two million head were wiped out, and in some areas the loss was total. In 1976, the government launched a program aimed at bringing the number of cattle and other livestock back up to 80 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively, of pre-drought levels. By 1980, the program had reached its goal, according to official reports. However, the persistent drought of the past four years may destroy some of that progress.

#### Fishing

Commercial fishing is of little importance, except along the Niger River and on Lake Chad. Average production is estimated to be 10,000 tonnes, and 85 per cent of the catch is exported to Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

#### Industry

The industrial sector generates about 10 per cent of the GDP and employs 3 per cent of the labour force. Overall, Niger's industries are rather small. In the late 70s, the growth rate in this sector was higher than that of the economy as a whole. None the less, its share of budgetary revenues remains small. This is attributable to the limited market, the high transportation and energy costs associated with a landlocked country, the lack of investment and basic industries and the shortage of raw materials. Despite a liberal investment policy, the number of private businesses remains low, and the industrial sector consists basically of parastatal firms. Most of these are involved in processing agricultural products and import substitution industries.

The textile industry has become the most important in the manufacturing sector since the decline in oil production. In order to promote growth in the secondary sector, Canadian aid is financing a line of credit project, providing \$18 million over the 1983-87 period.

#### Mining

Mineral production consists mainly of uranium - which accounts for almost 80 per cent of export earnings - coal and cassiterite. Niger ranks fifth in the world in both production and known reserves of uranium. Its production and export led to an economic boom in Niger between 1974 and 1981, when the mining sector's contribution to the GDP went from 1.5 per cent to 11.9 per cent. During that time, the world price of uranium increased six-fold



because of short supply and steady demand. The favourable trend in world prices encouraged the Niger government and foreign investors to increase production, and a second mine went into operation in 1978, doubling the country's production. In 1980, however, the uranium market contracted and prices began to drop sharply. Between 1981 and 1983, the average price of uranium exported from Niger fell 25 per cent. This weakening of world demand resulted from the recession in the industrialized countries, a slowdown in the development of nuclear energy and the stockpiling of reserves. Today, times are hard, and the government is particularly concerned by the drop in uranium prices and increasing production costs that mortgage the future and reduce foreign exchange earnings. The importance of uranium as an export makes Niger very vulnerable to market fluctuations.

Cassiterite is the second most important mineral resource in the country. The deposits have a tin content of 71 per cent. Production - still by traditional methods - is less than 100 tonnes per year. Development of the mines is hampered by the fact that the deposits are scattered throughout the northern part of the country.

Niger also has major coal deposits, which are mined in the north. These reserves are estimated at 20,000 tonnes of coal per year for twenty-five years. Coal is already a significant source of electricity, thus reducing the amount spent on imported oil.

In recent years, considerable effort has been made to diversify mining operations. CIDA has funded mining research projects designed to give the Ministry of Mines and Industry a superior operating and management capability by providing it with technicians, experts and mining equipment.

Niger also has deposits of phosphate, iron and gold. However, given the prohibitive cost of extracting these minerals and the high costs attributable to being landlocked, it is unlikely that these resources will have an immediate effect on the growth of the country's economy.

### Energy

Niger is heavily dependent on the outside world for its energy needs. Until 1981, when the first coal-fired thermal generating station was built, almost all the electricity consumed was either imported from Nigeria or produced in Niger using imported petroleum products. In 1983, almost half the electricity was imported from the Kainji dam, owned by the Nigeria Electric Power Authority; Canada financed construction of the transmission line linking Kainji and Niamey. Major hydro-electric developments on the Niger River are now being studied. One of these, the Kandadji, is of particular interest, for both electricity production and the development of irrigated agriculture.

Solar energy will play an increasingly important role in an overall policy on energy development. Since 1975, Niger's Office of Solar Energy has been manufacturing solar panels, water heaters, distillers and ovens, and operates three pumping stations.



### Transportation

Because it lacks direct access to the sea and has a low population density, Niger faces serious transportation problems. In fact, it is doubly handicapped: inside the country, great distances must be covered to link relatively small urban centres; and outside, the nearest ports are more than 1,000 km away. Furthermore, Niger has no railways. Imports and exports must therefore be moved by road for the most part. The roads to the coast through Nigeria, Benin and Burkina Faso are inadequate and, like the ports of Lagos and Cotonou, are often congested. These difficulties lengthen travel time and lead to considerably higher costs. Since 1978, the Niger government has been trying to make major investments in reducing the country's isolation. That year, Route 1 was widened and the road from Maradi to the Nigerian border was completed. Canada's main involvement has been in the area of road construction. For example, it financed construction of the "Route de l'unité et de l'amitié canadienne" (RUAC), which is more than 400 kilometres long. In order to strengthen and improve this component of the infrastructure, Canada agreed in 1984 to rebuild the 150 km D'jariri-Diffa segment.

In the area of human resources development, CIDA is funding a multi-year training program (1977-1988 - \$10.5 million). Training awards for study in Canada, Niger or third countries are made available to Nigerois students in fields that coincide with development priorities.

### Institutional and multisectoral support

Institutional support (1976-1988 - \$16.5 million) is provided by assigning Canadian experts and technical advisers to various Niger government ministries and organizations in order to increase their capacity for planning and managing key sectors of the economy.

New mechanisms have been put in operation to facilitate the transfer of resources and reach target communities (micro-projects). The micro-project program (1983-1986 - \$3 million) supports development projects initiated and carried out by local communities.

### Canadian non-governmental organizations and institutions

Niger is a core country for Canadian non-governmental organizations. In 1984-1985, they provided more than \$1 million to finance projects mainly in the areas of agriculture, rural development, public health, and education and training. CIDA's contribution is approximately \$500,000. Canadian institutions such as universities, unions, professional bodies and co-operatives are working in Niger on programs of technical assistance, rural extension work and development of co-operatives.



### Multilateral and regional aid

The PANAFTTEL project, to which CIDA contributes (Niger portion 1975-1984 - \$7 million) will provide Niger, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal with a modern efficient microwave telecommunication system. Other activity in the telecommunication sector will provide training and technical assistance, as well as development.

Canada also contributes to several regional and international organizations, such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, and the United Nations agencies participating in Niger's development. For example, the Canadian government announced last February that it was making \$100 million available to the World Bank for the Special Fund for Africa the Bank has created.

The AfDB has made nearly 25 per cent of its cumulative loans of over \$2 billion to the Sahel nations. Canada's participation in the AfDB rose to more than \$46 million in 1983-1984. Its share of the capital stock equals that of France and puts it in fourth place, after the United States, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) provided Niger with over \$4 million in 1983-1984 for projects in agriculture, rural development and public health. Canada contributed \$59 million to the UNDP that year.

Between 1981 and 1983, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made available almost \$4 million for water supply, emergency assistance, essential requirements, and nutrition projects. Canada granted UNICEF \$23 million during that period.

### CIDA and Niger in the 80s

The future of Niger and its neighbours in the Sahel seems uncertain inasmuch as the economic base of these countries, agriculture, is threatened by drought, desertification and a growing population. When these three factors are combined, as seems to be the case now, the result is an ecological imbalance that often produces a serious food crisis, especially in regions where there is a production shortfall.

Although this is not the first drought in the Sahel, it does appear to be the longest and the most serious the region has suffered this century. In 1984, for the fourth consecutive year, there was a significant food deficit in Niger. Crops in the northern and western regions of the country have been devastated. In many villages, the food situation is critical. Grazing conditions are poor and livestock is in real danger. According to some experts, almost half a million people are seriously threatened by starvation. Like its neighbours, Niger must now contend with the cumulative effects of several years of drought, and every year, its people become less able to meet the challenge.



While the hazardous climate can explain the drought, it is not enough to explain desertification, the second major problem facing Niger. This process is more the result of human factors, particularly the population explosion. The Ministry of Rural Development estimates that if current demographic trends in Niger continue, the country's annual grain deficit could reach 350,000 tonnes by the end of the century. Feeding a population that doubles every twenty-five years or so requires not only an extension of the area cultivated, but also a cutback in following, which exhausts and erodes the already poor soil. It is probably for these reasons that Niger's grain yield per hectare fell from 500 kg in 1920 to 350 kg in 1978 and could drop to 250 kg by the year 2000. What makes the drought so alarming is that it is affecting soil already exhausted by human and animal activities.

Over-grazing is also responsible for the crumbling of the Sahel's ecology. Patches of desert appear, for example, near large urban centres, watering holes and pastures, areas under too much pressure from people and animals. Each year, the desert perimeter expands because of the lack of protective action and the over-population of livestock dependent on pasture-land that is constantly shrinking as more land is turned to crops.

Last but not least, desertification is caused by deforestation. Almost the entire population of Niger uses wood for heat, causing irreparable damage to the little forest that still stands. In 1983, 82 per cent of all energy consumption came from wood. Niger seems ill-equipped to reverse this tendency to destroy its environment. To provide short-term relief to Niger and its neighbours, Canada recently announced the creation of a \$65 million fund to help the Sahel nations deal with the problems generated by the famine. At the same time, the fight against desertification must be taken up, because the future of Niger and the other Sahel nations depends on it. The Canadian program recognizes this and therefore focusses on one main goal: helping to establish a new socio-ecological balance.

To help Niger in its efforts to improve the socio-ecological balance, the Canadian assistance program concentrates on three areas:

- stabilization of the vegetation cover;
- food security; and
- energy development.

Stabilization of the vegetation cover - The goal of this program is to support villages - the basic units of development - in their efforts to restore and conserve their environment. This includes reforestation, stabilization of dunes and putting animal husbandry and village water supply management on a rational footing in the most vulnerable areas.

Food security - The aim of this program is to ensure food security in rural areas and help Niger become self-sufficient in food. The main activities include developing small irrigated areas, crop protection, stockpiling seed and grain, fruit and vegetable crops and public health.



Energy development - Developing energy sources to replace wood is certainly one of Niger's primary goals. For this reason, the Canadian program emphasizes the development of local energy sources that are economical and adapted to rural ways.

These three main areas are complemented by support activities that are really the most important tools for developing these projects and making them succeed. These support activities include developing the human resources, village water supply management and strengthening existing transportation networks.

#### Developing the human resources

The Canadian assistance program counts on the involvement of local communities. The program focusses on these groups so that they will be both the main agents and the beneficiaries of development. Well-timed education, health and co-operative development projects will, with the help of Canadian NGOs, make it possible to involve the people of Niger fully in development.

#### Water supply management

The process of desertification can be reversed by making optimum use, for example, of water resources and reforestation. The development of water resources is one of the most strategic components of the Canadian program and is, in fact, a prerequisite to the success of development projects. For this reason, CIDA intends to complete a massive village water supply program. Rural communities are the priority, more specifically rural women, who are the main producers and are responsible for food.

#### Strengthening existing transportation networks

Over the past decade, major investments have been made in developing the transportation infrastructure. These gains must now be consolidated and used to help achieve food security.

#### Outlook

The future of development in Niger is closely linked to the food security question, whether uranium markets stagnate or grow and to the world-wide economic situation.

Food security, which was one of the main objectives of the government's development strategy, has proven difficult to achieve in times of drought. Although it has been self-sufficient overall in food in recent years, Niger today faces great challenges. The country must once again cope with the effects of drought and famine. All indications are that the grain shortage will increase considerably in the medium term, despite the government's efforts to attain food self-sufficiency.



The short-term outlook for uranium markets is rather uncertain. According to experts, nothing suggests there will be any appreciable improvement in the near future. There may be renewed growth in the market in the medium term, but prices and quantities will depend on the amount of uranium stockpiled around the world.

Finally, Niger is faced with ever-increasing financial constraints. Its current foreign debt takes up a large part of its GDP. Fortunately, the present austerity policy is bringing Niger's budget back into balance.

To sum up, the next few years are likely to be marked by increased efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency, slow economic growth, and a program of austerity and budgetary restraint.



<u>PROFILE</u>	<u>NIGER</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Official name	Republic of Niger	
Capital	Niamey	
Area	1,267,000 km <sup>2</sup>	9,976,000 km <sup>3</sup>
Population (1980)	5,425,000	24.3 million
Population density	5.9 person/sq. km	2.6 persons/sq. km
Gross Domestic Product growth (1970-1982)	3.3%	3.4%
Official language	French	French, English
Other languages	Hausa, Djerma	
Ethnic groups	Hausa, Djerma, Songhai	
Religion	Islam	
Adult literacy	5%	99%
Level of school attendance primary (1978)		
total	23%	
boys	29%	100%
girls	17%	
Life expectancy at birth	45 years	75 years
Infant mortality	146/1000 live births	9.1/1000 live births
Labour force active in:		
agriculture	91%	5%
industry	3%	29%
services	6%	66%
Percentage of minimum daily calorie requirement (1977)	91%	127%
Percentage of population with access to potable water (1975)	27%	
GNP/per capita	\$310 US	\$11,400 US



<u>PROFILE</u>	<u>NIGER</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Annual growth in GNP	1.5%	3.3%
National currency	CFA franc	CAN dollar
Average inflation rate (1970-1982)	12.1%	9.3%
Date of Independence	August 30, 1960	
Date of Constitution	November 8, 1960	
Principal trading partners	France, Nigeria, U.S., Benin, Burkina Faso, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy.	

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200 Promenade du Portage  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0G4

Tel.: (819) 997-6100







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